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**Questionnaire for Korea  
To Reflect Current Status of  
Women in Development**

Women in Development  
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**Research Center for Asian Women  
Sookmyung Women's University**

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Part I

GENERAL (Subjective questions to be answered by USAIDs)

1. Is there any structure of rewards and incentives in your country for administrators as concerns the introduction of women as a project component?

No.

2. How can an evaluation and monitoring system be created which will indicate the distribution of benefits to women in your country?

The mere large number of women who participate in all walks of life does not mean that women's status is advanced. Therefore, the percentage of those women who are in the responsible positions (for instance, those who can participate in decision-making process) can be assessed. For instance, the highest office holders in the government is the Director of the Womens' and Minors' Bureau. (see No. 74) Although there are 2,190 women professors out of 11,764 professors, there are few women presidents and deans.

A commission on the status of women, preferably in the President Office, or at least at Prime Minister level, should be created which can review the situation periodically and make the progress report and make recommendations to the government.

3. In what ways might women in your country be more effectively utilized as an economic resource in the development process?

Women should be trained to hold jobs by the government to utilize their potentials. Especially, there should be sufficient job openings for the young college graduates who can use what they have learned at colleges. Equal opportunities should be given regardless of marital status in recruitment. The

companies wishing to recruit employees should give equal opportunities to women in their hiring examinations because very often, companies specify men only. In 1977, the banks, one of the conservative industries in the employment practice, started to give equal opportunity for the females in recruitment and promotion.

4. Do women's roles in your country follow consistent patterns or are there fundamental differences in the role of women in the various sectors, geographic areas, etc.?

Women's roles have changed over the time. A large number of women came out of home and work outside their home. However, most women are engaged in the fields traditionally regarded as women's jobs. There are some tendencies to penetrate into occupations traditionally regarded as men's jobs, although the number is very meager, such as welders, brick layers, and carpenters.

There is no difference as to geographic areas except women tended to work outside more than men on Cheju Island.  
(for instance, women-divers)

Female participation in industry, service, and commerce sectors is growing.

5. What can such data on the role of women tell us that we could use to improve the design and implementation of U.S. projects?

It could present priorities in awarding projects and help understand the real situation regarding the status of women. That is to say that problems regarding the status of women can be pinpointed easily by focussing on priorities. Hitherto, unexplored topics or fields can be studied more effectively and duplicated studies can be avoided. Some topics need more urgent studies than the others.

6. In your country can we identify items that are indicators of the changed status of women over time? (Such as in education - are boys generally sent to school first? Is secondary attendance by females on the increase? Is there an increase of women in universities?)

In primary school, education is compulsory, and boys and girls are sent to school at the same time. If financial situation is difficult, boys are sent to secondary schools first.

The number of female students are on the rise at every level from primary to university level.

#### Number and Ratio of Girl Students

	1955	1970
Primary School	1,243,000 (42.3%)	2,754,600 (47.9%)
Middle School	114,000 (23.7%)	503,000 (38.0%)
High School	45,000 (16.8%)	218,000 (37.2%)
Colleges (including 2-year colleges)	9,000 (10.7%)	41,000 (25.3%)

The number of women in the labor force is also on the increase.

#### Women's Participation Rate in the Labor Force

1963	34.8%	1966	35.0%
1969	35.3%	1972	36.9%
1974	37.2%	1976/7	

The level of consciousness about the status of women can also show the changed status of women over time. For example, "A Study on the Status of Korean Women in National Development" by Ok Yul Kim and Kyungsook Lee indicates that conscious women tended to actively participate in the decision-making process at home and in society.

7. In what sectors are women in your country the most active (commerce, agriculture, industry, and services)?

- 1) agriculture (50.5%)
- 2) industry (17.5%)
- 3) sales (14.3%)
- 4) service (11.2%)

8. Do qualified women have the opportunity to represent their agency or organization at international conferences, seminars, fellowship programs, etc.?

Unless international conferences and seminars are organized by women's groups, qualified women find little representation. Very few women are awarded fellowships to study abroad by the government. Those women who wish to get fellowships apply for them on individual basis. Women members of the National Assembly are sent to international conferences by the Assembly along with male members.

To improve the situation, the government, social institutions, and universities should endeavor to send women representatives to international conferences.

9. Does the Asian woman in your country want to be "liberated" in the Western sense?

As to the women's liberation movement, Korean women do not want to be "liberated" in the Western sense. But, they are aware of the necessity of the consciousness raising about the status of women. They feel that they are discriminated against based on sex in the every walk of life. They would like to get equal opportunity in employment and equal treatment in law as well as in practice. Korean women feel that they have lower status than Western counterparts because their society is saturated with the traditional Confusian point of view which values male-oriented culture. Therefore, Korean women feel that eventually, the status of women will be elevated but requiring longer time.

10. What types and sources of data about women in your country are currently available?

Statistics about women are found in The Yearbook of Labor Statistics compiled by every year by the Office of Labor and Economic Planning Board. An Annual of Ministry of Education published every year helps educational statistics of female students.

Scholarly journals such as The Journal of Asian Women published by the Research Center of Asian Women, Sookmyung Women's University, The Journal of Korean Women, by the Korean Women's Research Center, Hyosung Women's College in Taegu are excellent ones.

Korean Women's Institute, Ewha Women's University (formerly Women Resource Development Research Institute) publishes women's studies report on various topics. Ewha Women's University also published The Status of Korean Women, The History of Korean Women, and women's materials, ancient one.

Women's organizations publish their own magazines. The National Council of Women has a monthly called The Voice of Women, and Korean Women's Legal Aid Center for Family Relations files its report. Many other women's organizations such as Korean Nurses Association have a monthly periodical. The Korean League of Women Voters occasionally publishes its report.

The popular women's magazines such as Yeosung Tonga, Yeosung Chungang, Yeowon, Hyundai Yeosung all carry excellent articles on the topics of women. There are also good articles in the women's section of the daily newspapers.

The National Council of Women published Women's Who's Who and so did other publishing companies.

#### Selected Bibliography : Books

Lee Hyo Jai and Kim Ju Sook. The Status of Korean Women, 1976.

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Research Center for Asian Women, Sookmyung Women's University, ed. A Study of the Women in the Yi Dynasty, 1976.

Bae Kyung Sook. Women and Law, 1972.

Office of Labor. The Present Situation of Woman Workers, 1972.

National Assembly Library. Korean Women Power, 1974.

National Council of Women, Korea. Resource Materials for International Women's Year, 1975.

Korean National Commission for UNESCO. Report of a Seminar  
for the Improvement of Woman's Status, 1975.

11. What are the established institutions which identify with and can strengthen the growth and development of women as human capital?

Women's Universities	Enrollment
Sook Myung Women's University	4,179
Ewha Women's University	8,883
Sudo Women's Teacher's College	2,440
Sung Shin Women's Teacher's College	1,998
Duck Sung Women's College	1,835
Dong Duck Women's College	1,410
Han Sung Women's College (Night)	355
Hyo Sung Women's College	2,396
Sacred Heart Women's College	1,213
Seoul Women's College	1,225
Chungju Women's Teacher's College	887
Pusan Women's College	1,144
Sang Myung Women's Teacher's College	1,337
(Four Year Colleges only)	
Women's Organizations	Membership
(Member Organizations of National Council of Women)	
Korean Nurse's Association	13,000
Women's Christian Temperance Unions	800
The National YWCA of Korea	353,330
Korean Association of University Women	400
Korean Midwifery Association	853
Women's Educator's Association of Korea	40
Central Women's Home	60
Legal Aid Center for Family Relations	100
The Korean Women's Veterans Association	9,113
House Wives Club Association	15,000
National Council of Catholic Women's of Korea	1,500
National Federation of Business & Professional Women's Club of Korea	300
Pan Pacific South East Asia Women's Association	70

(Member Organizations of National  
Council of Women, Continued)

National Council of Women's Welfare	50
Women's Mutual Service Association of Korea	150
Korean Women's Aeronautics Association	1,000
Korean Greenfield Women's Association	350
Organization for New Women	80
Embroidery Association	230
Korean Women's Club	300
Korean Beautician Association	11,000
Korea Women's Institute	50
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 544,406

(Non-Member Organizations of  
National Council of Women)

Korean National Mother's Association	40,000
Household Finance Cooperation	784,512
Korean Nurse-Aid Association	40,000
Girl Scouts of Korea	90,000
Korean Women's Association	1,131,780
Korean Pharmaceutical Women's Association	7,352
Korean Medical Women's Association	600
Iha-Hang Association	200
Central Association of Nation-wide House Wives' Classroom	230,000
All Korea Church Women's Association in P. R. O. K.	21,081
The National Organization of the Presbyterian Women of Korea	60,000
Korean Business Women's Association	61
Korean Women's Journalist's Club	130
ZonTer International of Seoul Club	48
Soroptimist Club	160
Korean League of Women Voters	882
International Women's Federation for Victory of Communism	300,000
Korea Food Development Center	30,000
Bureau of Welfare and Women's Affair	308,171
Ye Ji-Won	1,100
Korea National Federation of Women's Welfare Service	87
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 3,046,164



## Part II

### LEGAL AND SOCIAL (Data to be provided or collected by indigenous institution)

#### 12. Female Property Rights:

- a. Can adult women purchase real property in their own name and hold as sole owner?

Yes. An adult person is 20 years old.

- b. Can adult women sell real property they own:

-without the signature of their father, if unmarried?

Yes.

-without the signature of their husband, if married?

Yes.

- c. What are female inheritance rights:

-Do daughters as well as sons inherit land?

Yes. Unless it is stated otherwise by the will an unmarried daughter's share of the property inheritance is  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a son's, and a married daughter's  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a son's. Each son gets the same share of the property inheritance. The oldest son gets 50% more than the other sons when he becomes the head of the household.

-If a woman acquires land can she pass it on to her daughter?

Yes.

#### 13. Marriage:

- a. At what age may females marry without parental consent?

Females 23 years old and males 27 years old.

- b. Is marriage a family affair with parents playing the dominant role:

-In the selection of a husband for a daughter?

No. Although parents do not play the dominant role in selecting the spouse of their son or daughter, it is considered morally and socially unacceptable to marry without the parent's consent.

-in the selection of a wife for a son? No.

- c. In suing for divorce:

-may suit be brought by wife? Yes.

-may suit be brought by husband? Yes.

-either one equally? Yes.

- d. After divorce is there discrimination against remarriage:

-of women?

No. However, in case of a woman divorcee, the law prohibits her remarriage within six months from the date of divorce. It is for a biological reason to determine the father of the child in case she is pregnant during this period. Thus, she is permitted to remarry as soon as she delivers a baby during the six months period.

-of men? No.

14. What laws have recently been proposed to improve women's legal status?

The following laws and amendments of the laws have recently been proposed to improve women's legal status:

- (1) To abolish the headship of a house with its special privileges and rights, which is inherited to the first son of the family.

- (2) To abolish discriminatory property inheritance law against women.
  - (3) To abolish the paternal rights so as to give equal rights to both parents.
  - (4) To abolish the discriminatory provisions against maternal relatives with respect to the scope of legal action.
  - (5) To abolish the prohibition against marriage between the parties with the same family name and the same paternal ancestor.
  - (6) To abolish the discriminatory law that renders the husband the right to own those household properties for which the ownership is not specified.
  - (7) To provide the legal right to claim the property division by the divorce.
  - (8) To abolish the law that automatically establishes a mother-child relation between an illegitimate child and the wife of the child's father, as well as that between a stepmother and a child, without the consents of the parties involved.
15. In your country is social status measured by family size? No.
- Is a woman who can bear many children considered more valuable than one who cannot? No.
- The government encourages two-children per family. Korean Planned Parenthood Association first advocated the idea in 1971, and there was wide-spread campaign throughout the country sponsored by the Korea House Wives' Club.
16. Aside from childbearing, is a woman's status in your country a reflection of that of her husband's?
- To some degree, but more and more, women assert their status on their own social merits.
17. Are women conditioned from childhood to regard motherhood as their prime role in life?

Motherhood is still regarded as the sacred duty of women. But this attitude is slowly changing.

18. Do women in your country tend to avoid political or legal action to better their socio-economic position?

Korean women are rather passive in bringing political or legal action to better their socio-economic position.

19. Are there legal or other constraints that have a bearing on the status of women, including choice of work and profession? No.

20. Are there legal and other restrictions on the dissemination of information on family planning devices? No.

There are no legal constraints on the dissemination of information on family planning devices. The government strongly advocates the practice of family planning. In fact, it became the national policy to adopt family planning in 1962.

21. What obstacles are placed in the way of women desiring to:

- a. have a higher education? No.
- b. join the professions? No.
- c. enter government service?  
No high government appointees exist.
- d. enter business administration?  
Women are not hired in responsible positions. Some companies require women to quit their work when they get married.

22. Are fields of activity restricted to men only or women only? No.

23. Do women have a right to possess a bank account in their own name? Yes.

24. Do women have the right to borrow money, possess mortgages, enter into contracts, etc., in their own names? Yes.

25. Do women have the right to own a business? Yes.

## THE RURLA SECTOR

26. In your country what is the rural women's role in decision making with reference to use of farm credit?

Women participate to some degree in decision making with reference to use of farm credit.

27. Can women in your country have membership in a farmer cooperative? Yes.

28. Do rural women in your country make contributions to their husbands' farming decisions? Yes.

Does the wife or husband articulate these decisions?

The husband usually articulates these decisions.

29. Is wifely advice substantial on your rural scene? Yes.

30. Is the wife's influence usually negative or is she the deciding factor?

The wife's influence is substantial.

31. What role does the woman have in deciding what crops to plant? The decision is normally made jointly.

32. Do women and men more or less share agricultural labor? Yes.

33. What is the division of labor in the fields?

Women usually participate in cooking, serving, rearing children, planting and weeding. Men usually take part in seeding, planting and harvesting.

34. Do women as a whole know less about agricultural technological advances than men? Yes.

35. Who makes the decisions as to modern inputs?

Usually husbands or fathers make the decisions as to modern inputs.

36. Is procuring credit a male prerogative or do women have access to credit?

Procuring credit is usually male's prerogative.

37. Do rural women play a part in decisions and activities relating to marketing? Yes.

38. Do women participate in decision making in sales of cash crops? Yes.

39. Do rural husbands consider it beneath their dignity to have women engaged with them in the decision making process? No.

40. What role do the rural women have in putting aside savings and how their savings are later used?

Women play an active role in savings. Their savings are later used for sending their children to school, getting their children married and paying respect to ancestors.

41. Does the rural husband decide by himself how many and which of the family children will attend school or are decisions on educating the children a joint affair?

It is a joint affair.

42. Is vocational training available to rural women?

Yes. There are a number of training centers which provide training in handicraft, sewing, etc.

43. What role do the rural women play in handicraft production?

In the area of handicrafts, rural women play a major role.

44. Does the rural woman have unquestioned control of the use of income accruing from her own efforts?

Rural women have some control of their income as such decisions are made jointly by the wife and husband.

45. Are rural women allowed to keep the proceeds from the sale of surplus crops? Decisions in such matters are normally made jointly by the wife and husband.
46. Is there a pattern of females involved in government-sponsored work and self-help projects?

Yes, women particularly of needy families are involved at the working level rather than at the decision-making level.

#### STATISTICS

47. What is the population of country? 34,681,000
48. What is the female population of country? 17,245,000
49. What is the population in the 16-55 age group? 14,609,607
50. What is the female population in the 16-55 age group?  
7,814,985
51. How many people are in the labor force? 22,827,000
52. How many females are in the labor force? 11,772,000
53. What is the number of primary school graduates? 12,374,820
54. What is the number of female primary school graduates?  
4,165,460
55. What is the number of secondary school graduates? 4,282,382
56. What is the number of female secondary school graduates?  
996,048.
57. What is the number of vocational training students? 526,433
58. What is the number of vocational training female students?  
177,923

59. What is the number of college graduates? 703,021
60. How many people are "economically active" in the population?  
11,062,000
61. How many women are "economically active" in the population?  
3,556,000
62. What is the number of female college graduates? 96,819
63. What is the number of married women in population? 6,963,399
64. How many women practice family planning? 2,450,000
65. What is the rate of divorce in your country? 0.11%
66. What is the average number of children per family? 2.96
67. What proportion of women hold senior positions in government-industry? (As an example, only 10% of all FSRs/Rs 1 and 2 in State and AID are women while 50% are in grades FSO/R-7 and 8.) 0.049%
68. How many women are in local political movements and what percentage are in leadership positions? 260,000 & 5.06%
69. How many persons in your country are:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
a. Medical Doctors	17,299	2,889
b. Para Medics	17,081	14,547
c. Dentists	2,284	311
d. Dental Hygienists	0	144
e. Lawyers	816	1
f. Judges	516	2
g. Hold graduate degrees	3,440	734
h. School teachers (excluding higher education)	144,354	55,271
i. College teachers	11,764	2,190
j. Bankers	30,439	14,897
k. Educated abroad		13,426
l. Participate in medium & large-scale business	5,409,322	3,174,873



70. Number Male and Female by Economic Sector

	Male	Female
a. Agriculture	3,159,848	2,424,950
b. Commerce	1,001,798	860,042
c. Industry	1,307,713	636,009
d. Services	886,541	355,123
e. Utilities	26,110	2,277
f. Transportation	344,297	35,440

71. Male/Female Decision Making and Participation in: (Use capital "M" or "F" for dominance, small "m" or "f" for subordinate role)

a. Agricultural Production	M	f
b. Use Modern Inputs	M	f
c. Join Cooperatives	M	f
d. Obtain Credit	M	f
e. Petty Trading	M	f
f. Sell Cash Crop	M	f
g. Put Aside Savings	M	F

72. Non-Agricultural Rural Sector Production

a. Handicraft Production	m	F
b. Marketing of Handicraft	m	F
c. Use of Women's Own Income	M	f

73. In family Care

a. Health	m	F
b. Nutrition	m	F
c. Education of Children	M	F
d. Number of Children	M	f
e. Home Economics Training	m	F
f. Willingness to use Contraception	m	F

74. How many women hold ministerial or vice ministerial rank in government? None.

75. How many hold jobs that are equivalent to Bureau or Division Chief? 82

76. How many women hold leadership positions in labor unions?

OTHER

77. Are there supportive social services and facilities in the community which recognize the dual role of married women as mothers -- such as day care centers? No.
78. Are employment policies for women equal to those of men and is there equal pay for equal work?

No. Traditionally, certain occupations are filled by men and there were some cultural constraints on employment of women. Although changes have begun to occur to move gradually toward equal opportunity and equal pay scales in employment policies, these changes are slow and much remains to be accomplished.